

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Kovosvit, National Corporation, at Sezimovo Usti /4923N-1442E/ was a machine-tool plant. Its construction was begun in June 1938; its name at that time was the Moravian Machinery Company (Moravske akciové strojirny - MAS). It belonged to a joint stock company, the stockholders of which were members of Bata's family and officials of the Bata concern. Jaroslav Sevcik, then chief of the machinery department of the Bata Plant at Zlin /now Gottwaldov, 4913N-1740E/, was the person most responsible for the development of the MAS Plant. The enterprise started production in 1939 and has ever since been one of the most outstanding enterprises in this line in Czechoslovakia. In 1948 the plant was renamed Svit, National Enterprise, Gottwaldov, Plant T 3 at Sezimovo Usti. It was established as an independent industrial unit at the beginning of 1951 and assigned the name of Kovosvit, National Corporation. Somewhat later it became the mother plant of other enterprises which were annexed to it, viz., the Kovosvit National Corporation at Pisek /4918N-1409E/, the Kovosvit National Corporation at Zruc nad Sazavou /4944N-1506E/, and the Kovosvit National Corporation at Trebic /4913N-1553E/. At the end of 1951, Kovosvit was put under the jurisdiction of the Central Administration for Machine Tools (Hlavní správa pro obrábění stroje), a department of the Ministry of Heavy Engineering.
2. At the beginning of 1951, programs were established for the cancellation of the plant's old production and the organization of new production. The plans were made by Ing. Josef Stepan on the basis of an agreement with the Directorate of Precision Machinery (Reditelství přesného strojírenství) of the Ministry of Industry. Neither the Directorate nor the Ministry is any longer in existence. Stepan was manager of Kovosvit until the

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end of 1951, when he was appointed Central-Manager of the Brno Armament Works National Enterprise (Zbrojovka n.p.) in Brno. According to the new production scheme, Kovosvit became the only Czechoslovak enterprise to make radial drilling machines, as production of these machines by other enterprises was cancelled. Kovosvit made these machines shown in Encl. A in six different sizes with all accessories except electromotors. The sizes were in accordance with international standards as given by File's catalogue. Besides the drillers, the plant made radial drilling machines without turntables and steady rests. The machines bore the mark "VR" (Vrtacka radialni --- radial driller), an Arabic figure from one to six according to size, and the trade mark MAS, the original name of the plant. Two or three railroad freight cars, each loaded with one to three wooden cases, each of which contained a complete radial driller, left the plant every morning at 0600 hours, rolling along a spur track to Sezimovo Usti and on to Tabor 4925N-1440E along the main line from Prague to Ceske Budejovice 4859N-1428E. A considerable part of the production was earmarked for export, mostly to the Communist countries and South America. Foreign civilian commissions arrived at the plant from time to time to accept goods; Soviet commissions judged the goods very critically. In the Spring of 1952 an unidentified foreign commission arrived; some of its members were military personnel in uniforms. A Soviet order for drilling machinery, placed with Kovosvit in the Autumn of 1951, expressly stipulated that no Soviet-made ball-bearings, currently imported by Czechoslovakia, should be used in these machines. In the Autumn of 1951 a ministerial decree ordered the Skoda Works in Pilsen to transfer production of automatic revolving lathes to Kovosvit; this order was put into effect despite the objections raised by Kovosvit, which was overburdened with work and therefore reluctant to accept any new production line. The fact that the designs of these lathes, furnished by the Skoda Works, were defective caused some difficulties in introducing the new production. The redesigning and construction of only one type of these lathes lasted until the Summer of 1952; regular production of it is likely to have been started in the Autumn of 1952.

3. Other lines of production, mainly of textile machinery, were gradually cancelled from the beginning of 1951 and transferred to other plants. Production of textile machinery was transferred to the Kovosvit National Corporation at Trebic; transfer was completed in the Summer of 1952. The production of textile machinery at Sezimovo Usti (and, since the Summer of 1952, at Trebic) was headed by Bohuslav CHARVAT, about 40 years of age, single, non-Communist, who was not trusted by the Communists, but was an irreplaceable expert. Among other projects, Kovosvit at Sezimovo Usti had worked on a Soviet order for 500 knitting machines, the major portion of which was delivered during 1951. Foreign commissions in charge of accepting textile machinery were usually accompanied by (fau) SKALDA, an employee of the export department of the Svit National Enterprise at Gottwaldov. SKALDA was originally a designer, but now acts as an expert for the selling of textile machinery.
4. The one-storied structures Encl. B, Points #11 to 15, and 17 are production shops which are crowded with various kinds of machine tools, such as lathes, vertical, horizontal, and universal milling machines, various types of drilling and grinding machines, and gear cutting machines.
5. The Kovosvit National Enterprise at Sezimovo Usti possessed a foundry of its own Encl. B, Points #16-18 so that it received almost no semifinished products from other enterprises. It received from Kladno 5009N-1406E and other unidentified places pig iron which was recast by the plant's foundry into cast iron blocks, small quantities of malleable iron, special castings of cast steel, and steel and iron rods.

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An unidentified plant at Podmokly /5046N-1412E/ delivered duralumin pipes and Switzerland high-quality aluminum pipes. Aluminum of inferior quality used by the plant was of Czechoslovak origin. The plant still possessed its own small stockpile of nonferrous metals, which were economized very carefully.

6. A new foundry, secretly projected as Plant 30A /Encl. B, Point #28/, was to be constructed within the area of Kovosvit in 1952. In the Spring of 1951, however, when the plans for Plant 30A had been completed, the Ministry of Heavy Machinery ordered the plans to be shelved and instead ordered the construction of an all-concrete production hall /Encl. B, Point #23/, 25 x 80 x 100 m in size, to be completed in June 1952. Work was started immediately and by July 1952 the rough construction of the new hall had been completed. It was stated that the new hall would serve for production of "heaviest" (unspecified) drilling machinery; the character of the hall, however, made this statement dubious because the foundations of the building were not sufficiently heavy and the building is far too tall for its alleged purpose. A wall 10 to 12 m high would be entirely sufficient for the production of the heaviest drillers. Furthermore, production of any new heavy type of drilling machines was not even in preparation in the Summer of 1952.
7. The tool-making department of the plant /Encl. B, Point #22/ made production accessories such as tools, jigs, and fixtures, and also special machine tools, e.g. slot milling machinery for automatic circular knitting machines and slot milling and drilling machinery for needle bars of full-fashioned knitting machines. Its production served only to meet the needs of the Kovosvit mother plant and its affiliated enterprises.
8. A central storehouse /Encl. B, Point #24/ was built in 1950; it was equipped very well and divided into a supply room and a finished-goods storehouse.
9. The plant had a thermic power plant /Encl. B, Point #20/ of its own, which, however, could not supply sufficient quantities of electric current. A power line /Encl. G, Point #5/ was therefore installed in 1952, which supplied high-tension current of 25,000 V from Tabor. This voltage is reduced to 5,000 V in a transformer station /Encl. B, Point #26/ located in the plant area and serving Kovosvit and the adjoining Silon Plant. The voltage of the current was further reduced to 220/380 V, AC of 50 cycles, in the individual departments of these plants.
10. A plant water supply line was built in 1951. The wells were located near the Luznice River; the water was led from a pumping station /Encl. G, Point #6/ to the filtering station /Encl. B, Point #27/ in the plant area.
11. The plant owned two freight trucks, Tatra model, 10 tons, two light freight trucks, one medium-size bus, four passenger cars, and six tractors, Zetor model, probably 25 hp.
12. There was a gas filling station /Encl. B, Point #10/ which consisted of three underground iron tanks, each 1.5 x 3 x 3 m in size.
13. There was dense bus traffic between the town of Tabor and the Kovosvit plant. It was rumored that a trolley line was to be set up for this traffic in 1953.
14. A railroad spur track branching off at the station of Sezimovo Usti crossed the plant and ended beyond its southeastern fence, serving as well the neighbouring Silon Plant. There is an independent spur for the Silon Plant, also crossing the Kovosvit area /See Encl. B/.

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15. There was a plant militia at Kovosvit of about 70 men, armed with rifles and provided with dogs. Training of its members, based on military patterns, took place regularly every Saturday somewhere outside the town, in the plant yard, or in the plant buildings proper. The task of the militiamen was, among other things, to watch the plant area during the night, one two-man patrol being always on duty. Besides, there were six doorkeepers, armed with revolvers, two of whom performed guard duty at the guard house (Encl. B, Point #17 day and night. It was planned to build a commander's shelter (velitel'sky kryt) for the militia before the end of 1952, but its planned location was kept secret. Access to the plant without special passes was still possible in the Summer of 1952; employees showed only their time cards on entering.
16. Kovosvit employed about 2,000 persons. Inasmuch as it was a mother plant, the percentage of administrative employees was relatively high, amounting to about 250 persons. Out of the total personnel, there were about 400 women, 60 of whom were employed in white collar jobs, and about 300 apprentices, who were housed under supervision in an apprentices' dormitory (Encl. B, Point #17). The bulk of the personnel consisted of skilled labor; only women employed in production, mainly at controls of screws and parts, were unskilled. A particular category of employees, all of them non-Communists, were those who were transferred to Kovosvit from neighboring offices and other vocations in the Autumn of 1951. The victims of these transfers were glad to have been sent to a factory rather than to quarries or mines and therefore strove to make themselves familiar with their new jobs as soon as possible. Generally speaking, these people were received by their fellow-workers in a rather friendly manner and there were few complaints against them.
17. Work at the plant was kept going in two shifts, from 0600 hours to 1400 hours and from 1400 hours to 2200 hours. Salaries and wages were paid fortnightly. Wages of persons employed in production were calculated on a piece-work basis. Gross salaries and wages amounted approximately to the following:
- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------|---|
| Founder | 4,000 | Kos (for two weeks) | |
| Designer | 2,600 | " | " |
| "Young man" (worker employed for the first year after finishing apprenticeship) | 2,000 | " | " |
| Apprentice | 1,000 | " | " |
| Woman employed in production | 1,500 | " | " |
| Manager | 7,000 | " | " |
| Department chief | 4,000 | " | " |
| Younger clerks | 2,400 | " | " |
| Doorkeeper | 2,200 | " | " |
18. Additional ration coupons for workers engaged in hard physical labor were granted to foundry workers only. Workers employed at machines were given only the normal additional coupons given to industrial workers. White collar workers received regular coupons for industrial employees.
19. Labor morale was poor. In the Spring of 1952 the targets had been reached by 60%, and the bank caused difficulties several times in granting credits for the payment of wages and salaries.
20. A new cogwheel processing machine was brought to the Kovosvit plant from the USSR in May 1952 as part of the program "Let us learn from the USSR". It was an exact copy of the American type "Fellow" machine. The Soviet imitation, however, looked so poor that it provoked general laughter. Only Communists refrained from laughing; they rebuked everyone for criticizing the poor quality of the machine.

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21. Following are the names of several executives of the plant:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Antonin SAVARA | Since the beginning of 1952 manager of the mother plant and thereby also head of the affiliated enterprises. |
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| | He was counted among the most outstanding Czechoslovak experts in foundry matters. |
| 25X1 Ing. (fnu) BERANEK | Chief of the laboratories and the foundry, |
| 25X1 (fnu) HUDEC | Deputy Manager |
| 25X1 | |
| 25X1 (name unknown) | Cadre officer |
| 25X1 | |
| 25X1 Ing. (fnu) ZAMOSTNY | Chief of the planning department |
| 25X1 | |
| 25X1 Ing. (fnu) DONAT | Chief of the designing department |
| 25X1 | |
| 25X1 (fnu) KRALIK | Foundry controller |
| 25X1 | |
| 25X1 (fnu) KONECNY | Foundry controller |
| 25X1 Dr. Med. (fnu) MUDR | Physician at the plant dispensary |
| 25X1 | |
| 25X1 (fnu) POLACH | Designer |
| 25X1 (fnu) POLACEK | Designer |
| 25X1 (fnu) FALDYNA | Planning officer |

Annexes:

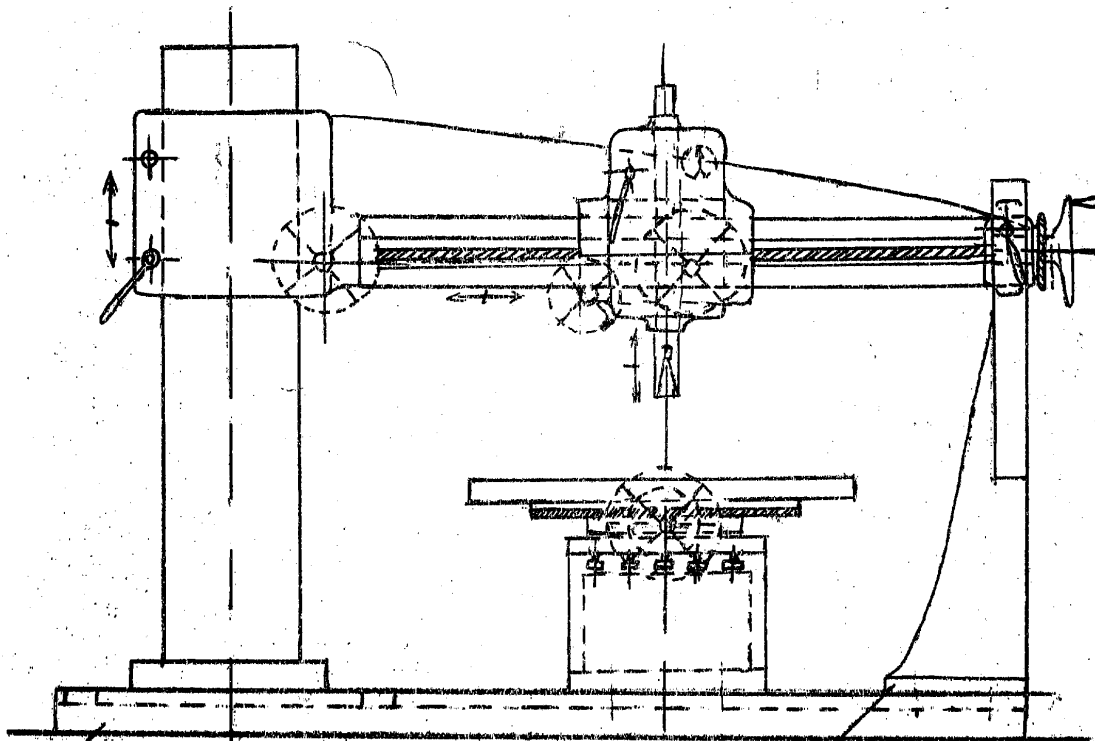
- A. Production Program of Kovosvit Works in Sezimovo Usti
- B. Kovosvit Plant
- C. Area of Sezimovo Usti and Plana nad Luznici

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ANNEX A

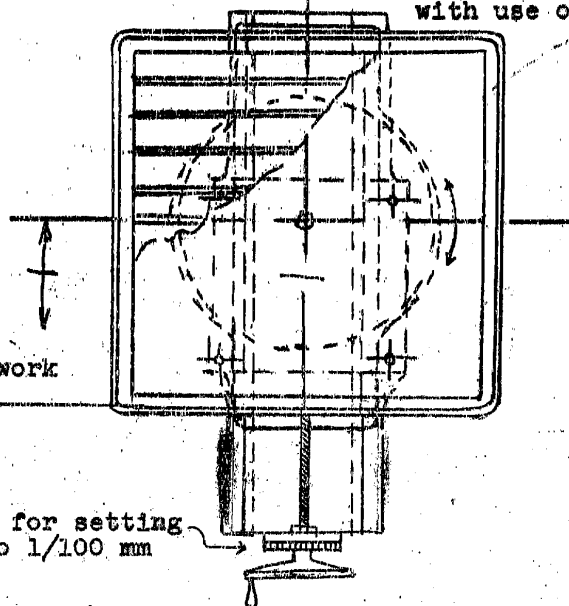
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Approximately six types of VR radial boring and drilling machines are made at Kovosvit

Steady rest for precision boring work with use of turntable



Turntable for precision work in circle and also in coordinates

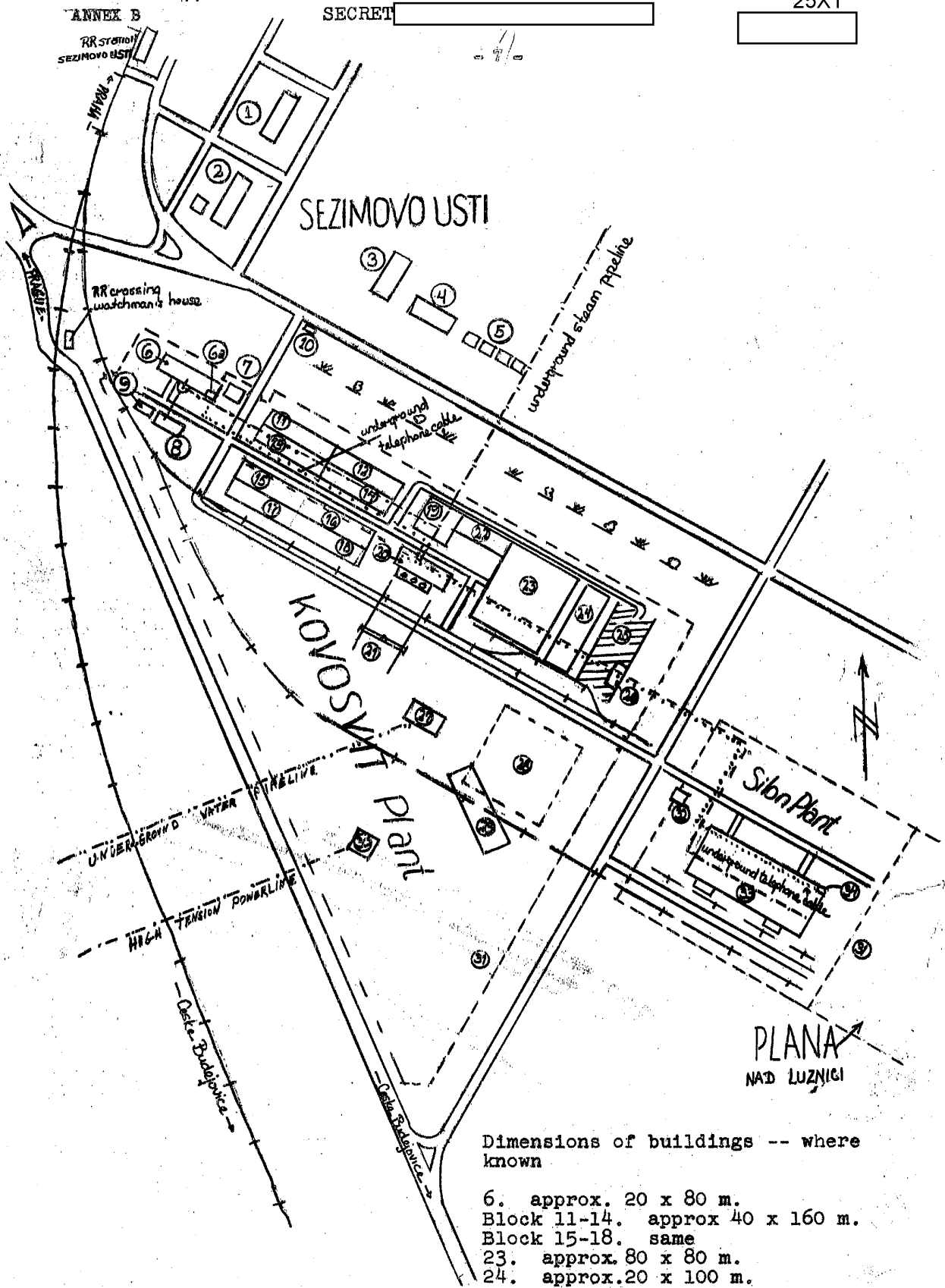
Nonius on large diameter for setting precision movements up to 1/100 mm

Production Program of Kovosvit Works in Sezimovo Usti

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Dimensions of buildings -- where known

- 6. approx. 20 x 80 m.
- Block 11-14. approx 40 x 160 m.
- Block 15-18. same
- 23. approx. 80 x 80 m.
- 24. approx. 20 x 100 m.

(not drawn to scale)

The Kovosvit Plant

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B (Cont'd) SECRET

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Legend

1. Dormitory for apprentices
2. Kovosvit workers' club
3. Administration building of OSSZ
4. New apartment houses for Kovosvit workers
5. Workers' housing development
- 6-31. Kovosvit Plant
 6. Administration building
 - 6a. Communications center
 7. Main entrance and guard house
 8. Cafeteria
 9. Garages
 10. Gas filling station
 - 11-15, 17. Production halls
 - 16, 18. Foundries
 19. Steel hardening and tempering department
 20. Power Plant
 21. Overhead traveling crane
 22. Tool plant
 23. Newly built hall
 24. Storehouse
 25. Lumber yard
 26. Lumber shed
 27. Water filtering station
 28. Proposed location of new foundry
 29. Temporary plumbing material warehouse
 30. Transformer station
 31. Wire fence
- 31-34. Silon Plant
 31. Wire fence
 32. Factory guard house
 33. Silon pilot plant
 34. Telephone center

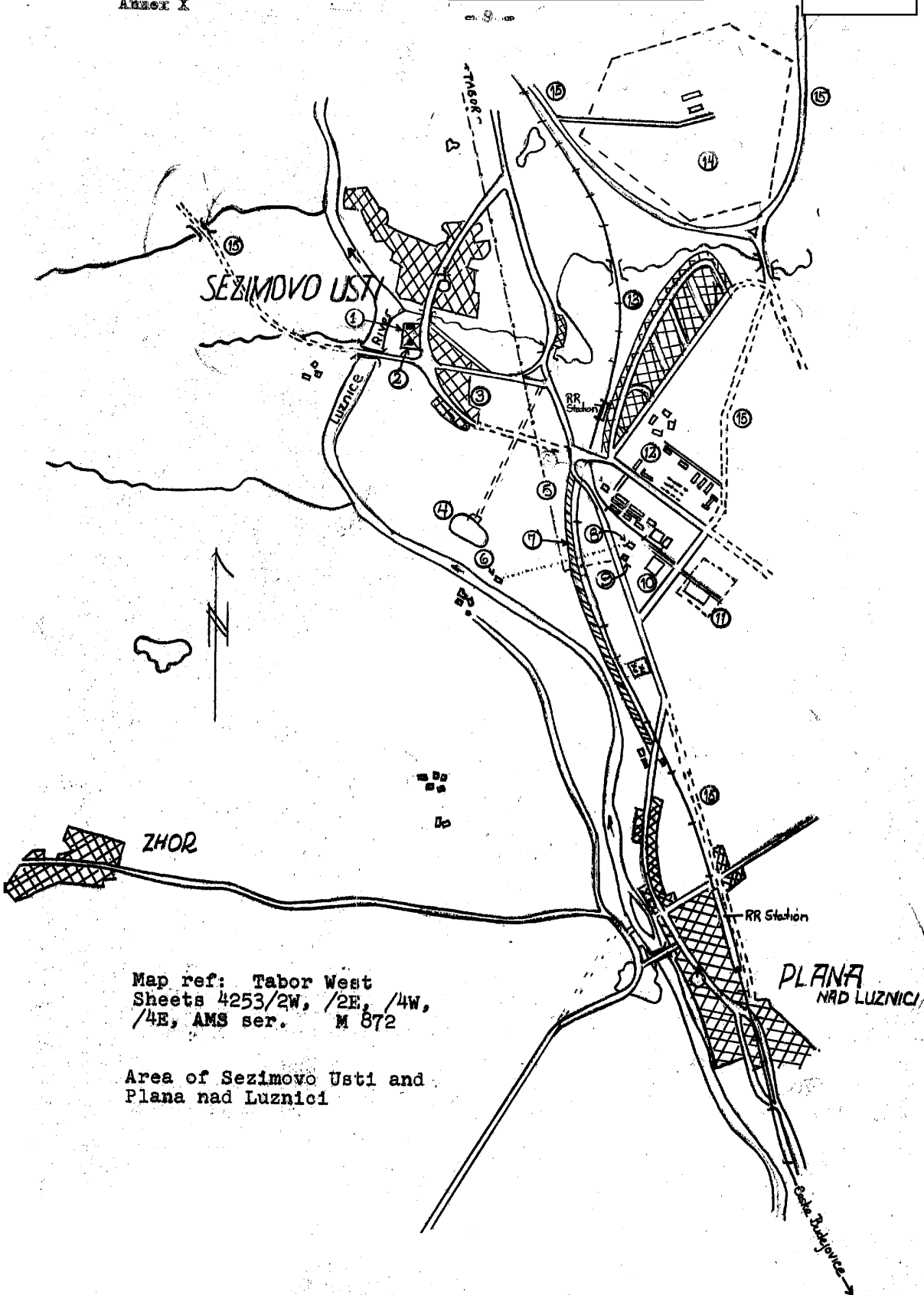
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Annex X



Map ref: Tabor West
 Sheets 4253/2W, /2E, /4W,
 /4E, AMS ser. M 872

Area of Sezimovo Usti and
 Plana nad Luznici

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Annex E C (Cont'd) SECRET

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Legend

1. Late President Benes' estate and SNB station
2. Home of Minister Zdenek Fierlinger
3. Homes for Siron workers
4. Stadion (sports grounds and swimming pool)
5. High tension line
6. Water pumping station
7. Highway transferred to other side of RR
8. Water filtering station
9. Transformer station
10. Kovosvit Plant
11. Siron Plant
12. Kovosvit workers settlement
13. Kovosvit workers' housing development
14. Airfield
15. Projected roads

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